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The Honorable Daniel R. Elliot, III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Chairman Elliot:

The Grant County Economic Growth Council is writing support for a strong freight railroad network, not only in our state/region, but across the nation. The Growth Council is a not for profit private and public partnership with the sole mission of facilitating reinvestment and investment for job creation and retention.

As America finally begins to pull itself out of the Great Recession, we do not need to reverse progress by damaging the ability of the rail industry to reinvest and continue to provide strong service.

The Growth Council supports a healthy freight rail network that encourages reinvestment by the rail industry, supports job growth and continued economic recovery.

We oppose any policy or regulatory changes that would hinder the freight railroads' ability to continue investing billions of dollars annually in private capital to grow and modernize the nation's rail infrastructure. We respectfully request that no regulatory or policy changes be pursued at this time by the STB. We need to maintain the strong and well-balanced regulatory regime we have in place today.

Thank you for our consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Timothy K. Eckerle